

## CHAPTER 2

### DELINEATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES

#### Section 1 : Statutory Requirements for Delineation

##### *Provisions stipulated under the LCO*

2.1 In making the recommendations in respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, the EAC is required to adhere to the following provisions stipulated under the LCO:

- (a) there are to be **5** GCs for the purpose of returning Members at elections for those constituencies [section 18(1) of the LCO];
- (b) at a general election, **35 Members** are to be returned for all GCs [section 19(1) of the LCO]; and
- (c) the number of Members to be returned for each GC is to be a number **not less than 5 nor greater than 9** [section 19(2) of the LCO].

*Criteria stipulated under the EACO*

2.2 In accordance with the EACO, the EAC shall:

- (a) ensure that the population in each proposed GC is as near as practicable to the number which results (i.e. “the resulting number”) when the population quota is multiplied by the number of Members to be returned to the LegCo by that GC [section 20(1)(a) of the EACO];
- (b) where it is not practicable to comply with (a) above in respect of a proposed GC, ensure that the population in that GC does not exceed or fall short of the resulting number applicable to that GC by more than 15% [section 20(1)(b) of the EACO]; and
- (c) ensure that each proposed GC is to be constituted by 2 or more contiguous whole District Council (“DC”) constituencies [section 20(2) of the EACO].

2.3 In making such recommendations, the EAC shall also have regard to:

- (a) community identities and the preservation of local ties [section 20(3)(a) of the EACO];

- (b) physical features (such as size, shape, accessibility and development) of the relevant area or any part thereof [section 20(3)(b) of the EACO];
- (c) existing boundaries of administrative districts<sup>1</sup> [section 20(4)(a) of the EACO]; and
- (d) existing boundaries of GCs [section 20(4)(b) of the EACO].

2.4 The EAC may depart from the strict application of the requirements set out in paragraph 2.2(a) and (b) above only where it appears that a consideration referred to in paragraph 2.3(a) and (b) above renders such a departure necessary or desirable [section 20(5) of the EACO].

## **Section 2 : Working Principles**

2.5 Apart from the statutory provisions and criteria set out above, the EAC has also adopted the following established working principles for the delineation exercise:

- (a) the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs should form the basis of consideration in the current delineation exercise;

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<sup>1</sup> “Administrative districts” refers to the 18 Districts as set out in Part II of Schedule 1 to the District Councils Ordinance (Chapter 547).

- (b) for those existing GCs where the population falls within the permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs;
- (c) Hong Kong Island (“HKI”), Kowloon and the New Territories are to be treated separately as far as possible having regard to the statutory criteria under the EACO;
- (d) when drawing up the boundaries of the GCs, splitting of DC constituencies in an administrative district should be avoided unless there are very strong reasons. Where splitting is necessary, it should affect the least number of administrative districts; and
- (e) factors with political implications are not considered.

2.6 The above working principles are generally the same as those adopted in the past. For item 2.5(c), the EAC has slightly revised the working principle concerned after review (please see paragraph 4.12 below for details).

### **Section 3 : Name and Code of GCs**

2.7 In determining the name and code reference for the GCs, the EAC considers that the name of GCs should comprise two easily distinguished components, namely the name of the area in which the GC is situated and a directional reference, same as those adopted for the existing GCs (i.e. HKI, Kowloon West (“KW”), Kowloon East (“KE”), New Territories West (“NTW”) and New Territories East (“NTE”)). The GCs are also distinguished by a code and numbering system starting from “LC 1” and ending at “LC 5”, being arranged from south to north and from west to east. The EAC hopes that with the adoption of this naming and coding system, anyone who consults the maps would find it easier to understand and locate the GCs. These methods have been adopted by the EAC since the first LegCo general election in 1998.

### **Section 4 : Population Forecasts**

2.8 Section 20(6) of the EACO stipulates that for the purpose of making recommendations on the delineation of GCs, the EAC shall endeavour to estimate the total population of Hong Kong or any proposed GC in the year in which LegCo general election is to be held.

2.9 As in the past, the necessary projected population figures are provided by an Ad Hoc Subgroup (“AHS”) set up specially for the purpose of the delineation exercise under the Working Group on Population

Distribution Projections in the Planning Department (“PlanD”). These population projection figures are the information required for conducting the delineation exercise. The AHSG was chaired by an Assistant Director of the PlanD and comprised of representatives from the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (“CMAB”), the Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”), the Housing Department, the Lands Department (“LandsD”) and the Registration and Electoral Office (“REO”). Most of them are professional departments which have all along been responsible for carrying out territory-wide population censuses and projections on population distribution. To ensure that the projections can cater for the 2020 LegCo General Election, the AHSG was requested by the EAC to project the population distribution figures as at a date as close to the election date as practicable. For this reason, the AHSG had followed the practice in past delineation exercises and provided the EAC with the projected population figures as at **30 June 2020**, having considered that the 2020 LegCo General Election would be held in the third quarter of 2020.

2.10 On the basis of the latest statistics of population projections (2017-based) released by the C&SD, the AHSG provided the population forecasts for the delineation of GCs for the 2020 LegCo General Election. As at 30 June 2020, the total population of Hong Kong is projected at **7 558 100** and the **population quota** is therefore **215 946** for the purpose of this delineation exercise, which is the number resulted from Hong Kong’s total population (i.e. 7 558 100) divided by the total number of Members to be returned for all GCs (i.e. 35) as defined in section 17(1) of the EACO.

## **Section 5 : The Process of Delineation**

2.11 According to the population forecasts mentioned in paragraph 2.10 above, and the statutory provisions and criteria as well as established working principles set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 above, the EAC drew up its provisional recommendations on the boundaries and names of GCs for the 2020 LegCo General Election.

2.12 In accordance with the law, the number of GCs for the purpose of returning Members at the 2020 LegCo General Election is 5. In respect of the delineation of GC boundaries, it is the EAC's established working principles that the existing boundaries of the 5 GCs should form the basis of consideration, and for those existing GCs where the projected population falls within the statutory permissible range of the population quota requirement, their boundaries will as far as possible be adopted to form new GCs. According to the above working principles and based on the latest projected population figures, the EAC has allocated the 35 seats to the existing 5 GCs by using the established two-step calculation method.

2.13 The two-step calculation method for allocating the seats is detailed below:

- (a) Step One: Seats were allocated among the 5 GCs by dividing the projected population of each GC by the population quota, i.e. 215 946 and thereafter, allocating the seats according to the integer of the calculated number subject to the statutory limits (i.e. not less than 5 seats nor

greater than 9 seats for each GC). Accordingly, 32 seats were first allocated to the 5 GCs.

- (b) Step Two: There were 3 seats remaining after Step One. Since the number of seats allocated to NTW GC has reached the upper limit for returning Members in each GC (i.e. 9) as permitted under the statutory requirement of the LCO in Step One, NTW GC would not be included in the allocation of seats in Step Two. In other words, the remaining 3 seats could only be allocated to 3 of the 4 GCs of which the allocated seats have not yet reached the statutory upper limit. Under such circumstances, there were 4 options for allocation, as shown in the “Descriptions of the Proposed GC Boundaries” contained in the consultation document prepared by the EAC, and the options are tabulated in **Appendix I** of this report. Having examined the 4 options, the EAC adopted the one with the smallest range of percentage deviation of the population from the resulting number in the individual GCs (i.e. Option C).



2.14 The number of seats proposed to be allocated to each GC in accordance with the aforesaid method is as follows:

| <b>Proposed Name of GC (Code)</b> | <b>Projected Population</b> | <b>Seats Allocated in Step One</b> | <b>Seats Allocated in Step Two</b> | <b>Proposed Number of Seats</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| HKI (LC 1)                        | 1 232 700                   | 5                                  | 1                                  | 6                               |
| KW (LC 2)                         | 1 205 300                   | 5                                  | 1                                  | 6                               |
| KE (LC 3)                         | 1 120 800                   | 5                                  | -                                  | 5                               |
| NTW (LC 4)                        | 2 174 700                   | 9                                  | -                                  | 9                               |
| NTE (LC 5)                        | 1 824 600                   | 8                                  | 1                                  | 9                               |
| <b>Total:</b>                     | <b>7 558 100</b>            | <b>32</b>                          | <b>3</b>                           | <b>35</b>                       |

Details of the calculation are shown in **Appendix I**.

2.15 Under the existing boundaries, the projected populations of the 5 GCs are all within the statutory permissible range. All along, for those GCs or DC constituencies which do fall within the statutory permissible range, the EAC will not on its own initiative adjust their boundaries. In addition, according to the experience in past delineation exercises, especially the delineation of constituencies for the 2019 DC Ordinary Election, the public has prevalently advocated maintenance of the status quo of DC constituency boundaries as far as possible, and that the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs have been adopted since the first LegCo general election in 1998, hence, the EAC proposed the adoption of the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs as the GC boundaries for the 2020 LegCo General Election under the

provisional recommendations.

2.16 The provisional recommendations of the EAC satisfied all the statutory provisions and criteria as well as established working principles set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 above. As the adoption of the boundaries of the existing 5 GCs is proposed, the EAC also proposes the adoption of the names and codes of the existing 5 GCs.

## **Section 6 : Provisional Recommendations**

2.17 After the EAC has drawn up the provisional recommendations on the GC boundaries, the EAC Secretariat has prepared for the public consultation exercise. The public consultation period ran from 8 May 2019 to 6 June 2019. Details of the EAC's provisional recommendations, including the projected population and component District Council Constituency Areas ("DCCAs") of each GC, are set out in **Appendix II**.